

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

1 February 2006

SUBJECT: Trip Report for Gary Anderton and Travis Mann Participating in Talisman Saber 2007 Exercise Meetings in Honolulu, Hawaii

1. Gary Anderton and Travis Mann participated in various planning meetings for the Talisman Saber 2007 (TS07) Exercise in Honolulu, Hawaii during 16-25 January 2006. The meetings were located at Camp Smith's Pacific Command (PACOM) Headquarters and at Pearl Harbor Naval Base. Approximately 100 representatives of U.S. and Australian military services attended these meetings. Gary and Travis worked during these meetings to develop exercise and training objectives for the Joint Rapid Airfield Construction (JRAC) 2007 demonstration project, JRAC demo concepts and scenarios, and made numerous contacts for exercise support functions.

2. The Talisman Saber Exercise is a combined United States (US) and Australia (AS) joint services exercise hosted in Australia, which includes a short-notice, forced-entry operational scenario. With over 15,000 US personnel and 12,000 AS personnel scheduled to participate, it is by far the largest and highest priority Tier II exercise in the Pacific Theater. The JRAC final demonstration project will focus on construction of a C17-capable semi-prepared airfield at Australia's Bradshaw Field Training Area (BFTA) during the May-June 2007 time frame, coinciding with other military operations executed within the TS07 Exercise. The BFTA is a largely underdeveloped military range about two and one-half times the land size of Rhode Island, located in Australia's remote Northern Territory.

3. During 16-18 January, Gary and Travis participated in the TS07 Training Objectives Workshop (TOW). It was during this workshop that Australian military representatives first expressed the added significance of the JRAC project at BFTA. The goal for TS09 is to shift the focus from the Shoalwater Bay Training Area located on Australia's northeastern coast to the BFTA. Construction of an airfield at BFTA during TS07 is considered a must for this transition to happen by TS09.

4. During 18-21 January, Gary and Travis participated in the TS07 Concept Development Conference. They gave a JRAC overview briefing during this time, and presented the proposed airfield geometry and scope. It was during this conference that the importance of the JRAC project was elevated within the framework of the overall Talisman Saber Exercise. The JRAC project became one of seven TS07 Primary Exercise Training Objectives and one of twelve Key Exercise Objectives. Also during this time, Travis was selected to represent the JRAC activities during the TS07 planning phase as a standing member of the TS07 Executive Steering Committee. An Engineer Working Group was created at this time to represent the interests of all participating agencies in the development of JRAC-related plans. The members of this group are listed below:

Gary Anderton	US Army ERDC
Travis Mann	US Army ERDC
Mark Schnabel	US Army COE LNO to PACOM
MAJ Pat Stogner	USARPAC DCSNG
Sam Membrere	USARPAC G-35
MAJ Mike Jernigan	MARFORPAC
LT Rich Ficarelli	1 st Naval Construction Division
Mary Dixon	USARPAC G-6

5. During 23-25 January, Gary and Travis participated in the TS07 Scenario Development Workshop. It was during this time that the Engineer Working Group developed an exercise scenario and timeline for the JRAC project. The proposed scenario involves the existence of a C130/C17 capable semi-prepared runway located at a semi-permissive location. (This 'existing' runway would be constructed by US and AS troops just before the FTX portion of the exercise is initiated.) The airstrip would be seized and secured by US forces arriving by air, possibly with Stryker vehicles. Once secure, a combined US/AS engineer task force will construct two C17 aprons with associated taxiways to increase the MOG capacity from one to three in four day's construction time. A C17 flight operation on the new airfield will certify the project and the JRAC demonstration. The proposed timeline is as follows:

18 May 2007	Combined/Joint Engineer Task Force on site
21-27 May	JRAC training at BFTA site
28 May – 18 June	C130/C17 runway construction
19-20 June	Airfield seizure (C130 ops); FTX play starts
21-24 June	Apron and taxiway construction
25-28 June	C17 flight ops on new airfield

6. Travis met with representatives from the Army Contracting Agency Pacific on 25 January to discuss methods and support for the ERDC purchases that will be required for the 07 demonstration. The commander indicated that his organization would be able to fully support the ERDC requirements for material purchases, shipping, etc. In light of this agreement, a contracting officer will be added to the engineer working group and will participate in the June 06 site survey to support any contracting needs for the upcoming demonstration.

7. Travis briefed LTC Benson, Commander of the 29th Engineer Battalion on 26 January regarding the JRAC program and the current status of the 07 demonstration. LTC Benson pledged the support of the 82nd Combat Support Equipment (CSE) for the US engineer participation in the 2007 JRAC demonstration.

8. Overall, the January TS07 meetings were very successful for the JRAC program. JRAC's visibility in the TS07 Exercise was raised significantly during these meetings, and a good number of support teams pledged their support for the JRAC demo. Key issues that will be worked on in the near future include identifying how

the 29th Engineer Battalion and other JRAC equipment will get to Australia and back, and how a C17 flight operation at the end of the demonstration project can be secured.

9. The next TS07 meetings relative to the JRAC demo will be held in Sydney and Canberra, Australia during the week of 13-17 February 2006. These meetings will focus on the use of Exercise Related Construction (ERC) funds for JRAC airfield supportive projects as well as other coordination issues for the TS07 Engineer Working Group. Travis and a few other members of the TS07 Engineer Working Group will attend these meetings. The JRAC team has a site survey scheduled for the BFTA airfield site during 12-16 June 2006, with the TS07 Initial Planning Conference in Newcastle, Australia during 19-22 June 2006.

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